

A New Transportation System at Fort Clatsop National Memorial



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Presentation Outline

1. Background
2. Components of the New Transportation System
 - Netul Landing
 - Other
3. Evaluation of the New Transportation System
 - Data Collection
 - Visitor Survey
 - Volpe Center Involvement
4. Looking Forward





Regional Map

The Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

- 2004-2006 (Lewis & Clark and the Corps of Discovery wintered at Fort Clatsop in 2005-06).
- A large increase in visitation expected to correspond with the Bicentennial Commemoration.
- Signature Event – *Destination the Pacific*, Nov. 11-15, 2005.
- The bicentennial was the impetus behind many of the changes made at Fort Clatsop.



Other NPS Shuttle Systems



Zion National Park



Acadia National Park



Yosemite National Park



Components of the New Transportation System

1. The implementation of a new ticket reservation system.
2. The construction and opening of Netul Landing, which serves as the summer gateway to Fort Clatsop National Memorial, in addition to its role as a seasonal parking area and regional transit bus/intra-park shuttle hub.
3. The seasonal closing of the two parking lots near the visitor center/fort replica from June 14th - September 6th.
4. The introduction of an intra-park shuttle that transports visitors from Netul Landing to the visitor center/fort replica area.
5. The addition of new transit service routes (in partnership with Sunset Empire Transit District) to transport visitors from neighboring communities to Netul Landing.



Netul Landing

- Netul Landing represents about \$1 million of a larger \$4.6 million investment in preparing for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.
- Netul Landing is intended to serve as the trailhead for the future Fort to the Sea Trail.
- Netul Landing will only be used for a shuttle stop during the summer months, which is anticipated to be 3 months. During this time, Netul Landing is a critical link in the regional transportation system.
- Fort Clatsop expanded from 125 acres to 1500 acres in 2004, and the new Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Parks, of which Fort Clatsop is the focal point, is roughly 50,000 acres spread out over the entire region.



Out with the Old...



In with the New...



Environmental Assessment

"This environmental assessment (EA) includes the following specific purposes for the actions described for the RDU (Netul Landing):

- * Reduce vehicular traffic, noise, and local air pollution that currently detract from the desired visitor experience at FOCL.
- * Provide additional parking and linkage to the regional shuttle system.
- * Preserve viewsheds along the Lewis and Clark River.
- * Serve as an interpretive programs staging area
- * Provide for visitor day use activities not currently available at FOCL
- * Provide for non-motorized pedestrian connection to link the RDU (Netul Landing) to Fort Clatsop
- * Expand visitor experience throughout FOCL



This EA includes the following specific purposes for the actions described for the Fort Clatsop Park and Ride facility:

- * Avoid resource damage from overflow parking along FOCL and county roadways
- * Ensure that the Fort Clatsop Park and Ride facility is operational by the year 2004 for the beginning of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial
- * Reduce vehicular traffic, noise, and local air pollution that currently detract from the desired visitor experience at FOCL by locating the Fort Clatsop Park and Ride facility outside FOCL boundaries.
- * Locate the Park and Ride facility in close proximity to FOCL to ensure frequent service to and from FOCL.
- * Improve pedestrian safety at FOCL visitor attractions.
- * Educate visitors and local population about the advantages of transit.
- * Provide convenient, easily located, and safe off-site parking to accommodate FOCL visitors.
- * Support overall community needs for a regional transit/shuttle transfer facility.
- * Provide an appropriate transition for FOCL visitors."



Summer 2004 Visit to Fort Clatsop



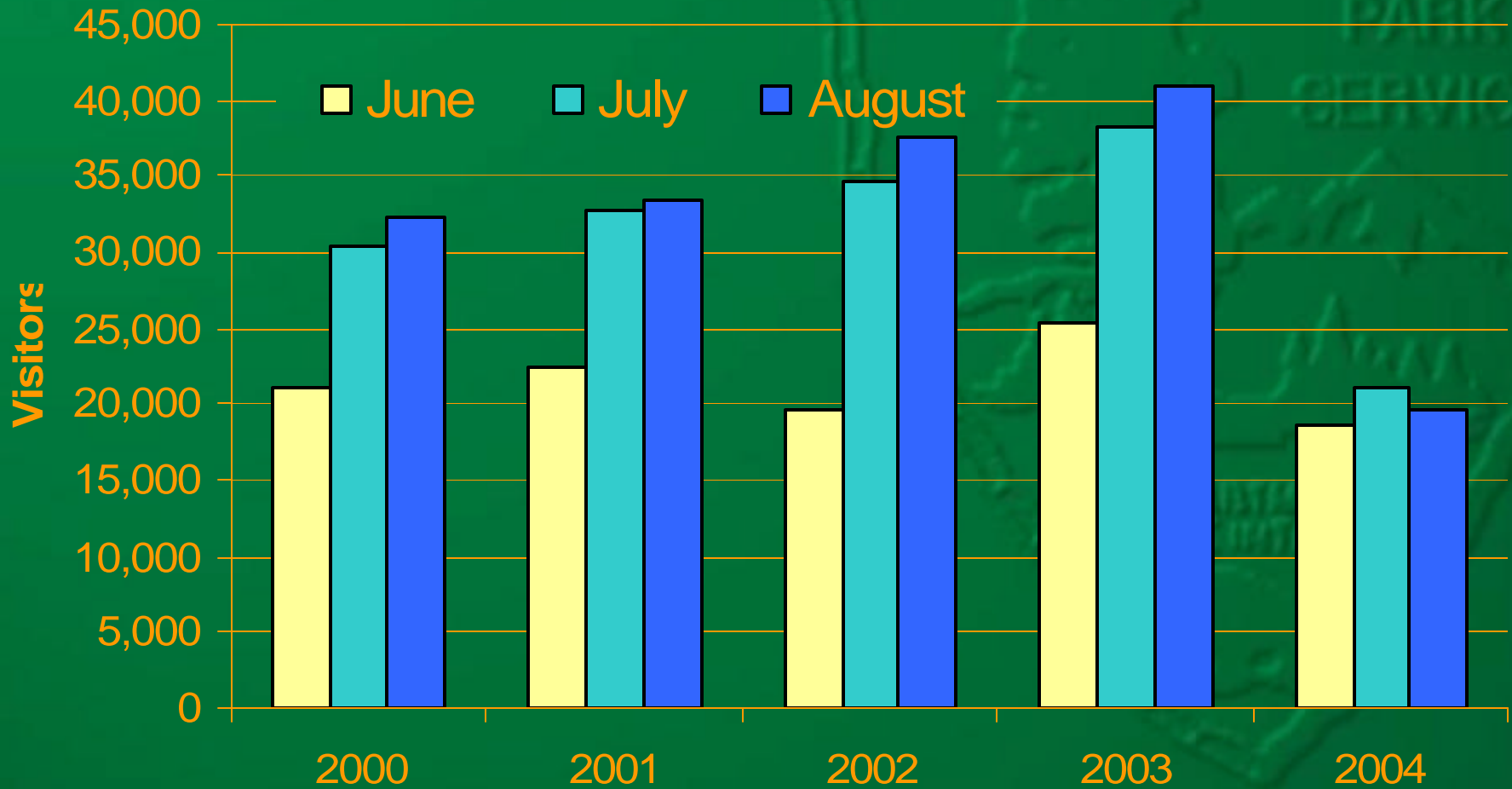
Evaluation of Summer 2004 Operations

Data collected for the evaluation:

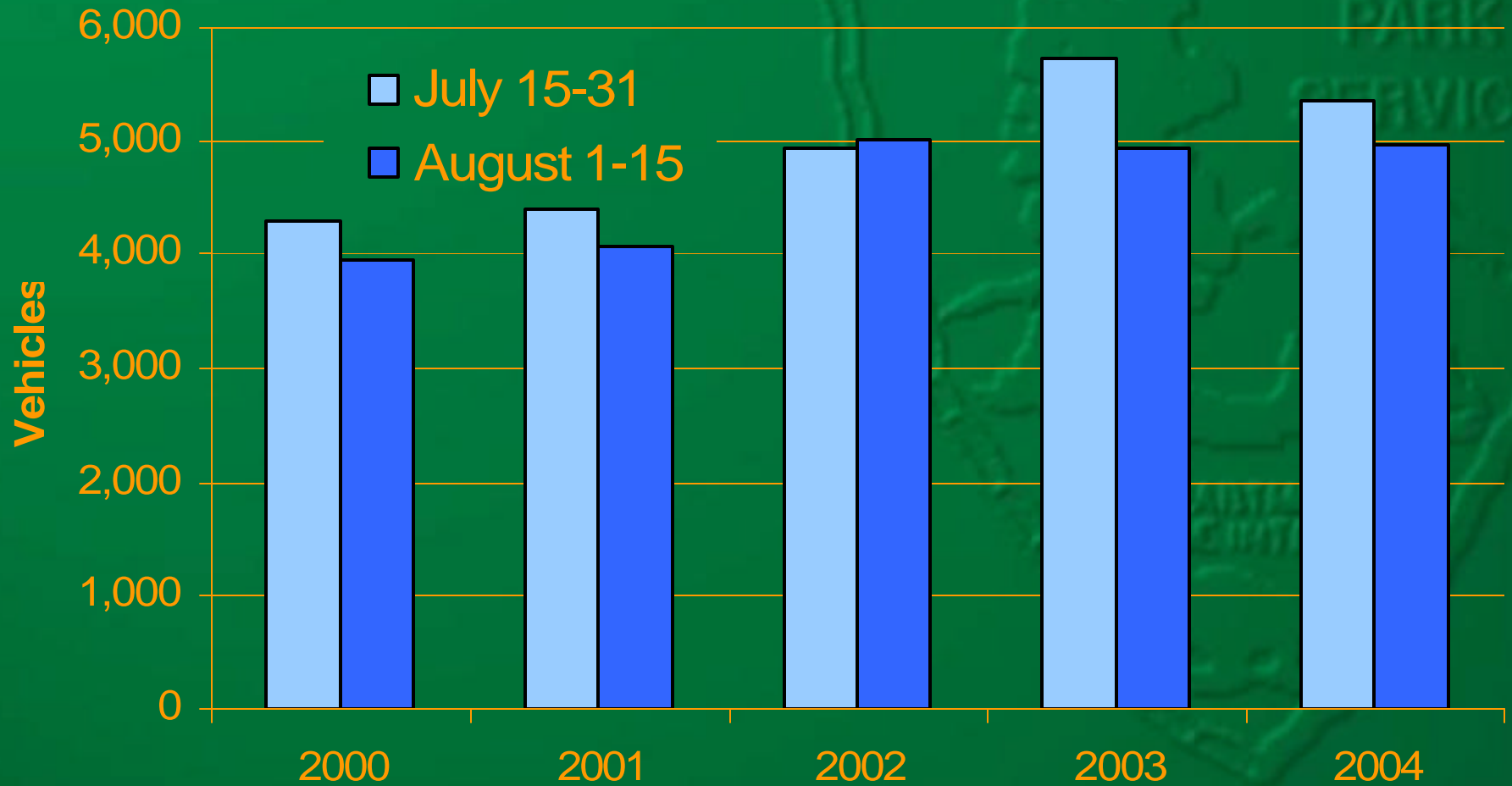
- Transit ridership information
- Tour bus information
- Traffic counts for 2004 and prior years
- Information from the visitor sign-in book
- Fort Clatsop Bookstore Sales
- System Operating Costs and Revenue Collection
- Related Visitor Counts in the Region



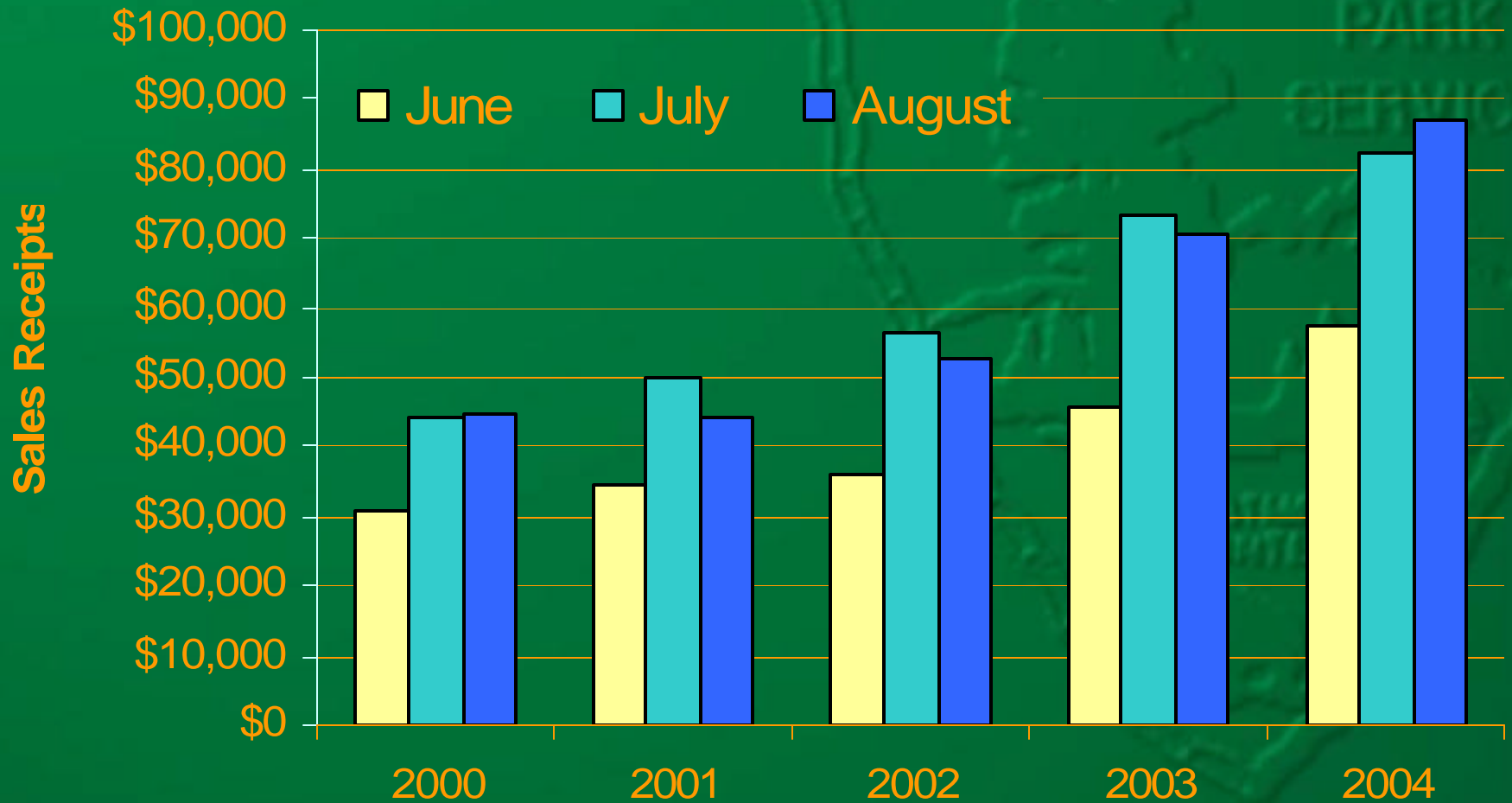
Fort Clatsop National Memorial Official Visitor Counts



Traffic Counts at Fort Clatsop (Number of Vehicles)



Fort Clatsop Historical Association Bookstore Sales



SETD Average Daily Ridership to FOCL

DATE	ASTOR	CLATSOP	COLUMN	TOTAL
6/14 to 6/20	16	21	7	43 (10%)
6/21 to 6/27	15	28	8	51 (8%)
6/28 to 7/4	17	26	6	50 (9%)
7/5 to 7/11	27	31	6	63 (10%)
7/12 to 7/18	28	39	10	78 (12%)
7/19 to 7/25	38	42	16	96 (13%)
7/26 to 8/1	32	18	11	62 (8%)
8/2 to 8/8	36	42	18	95 (13%)
8/9 to 8/15	40	31	11	82 (10%)
8/16 to 8/22	23	16	14	53 (9%)
8/23 to 8/29	13	10	14	37 (7%)
8/30 to 9/5	14	26	8	47 (12%)



Lewis & Clark Explorer Shuttle Survey

- Administered between July 30th & August 28th
- 342 Completed Surveys
- Five Sections:
 1. Visitor Characteristics
 2. The Reservation System Ticketing System
 3. The Fort Clatsop Intrapark Shuttle
 4. Regional Transit Buses
 5. Visitor Experience
- Objective: 1. Gain insight into the nature of the visitor and visitor experience at FOCL; And 2. Evaluate the new shuttle and reservation systems used at FOCL.



Trade-off Question

Some people prefer to open the parking lot near the Visitor Center so they do not have to take the intra-park shuttle bus, even if it means more traffic congestion and crowding around the Visitor Center and the fort. Others feel that the parking lot should stay closed and that visitors should continue to take the intra-park shuttle bus, because it decreases traffic congestion and crowding around the Visitor Center. Which view comes closer to your own?

- 63 (18.4%) Open the Visitor Center parking lot so visitors do not have to take the intra-park shuttle, even if it means more traffic congestion and crowding.
- 214 (62.6%) Keep the Visitor Center parking lot closed and let visitors continue to use the intra-park shuttle to decrease traffic congestion and crowding.
- 32 (9.4%) Don't know/No Opinion



A Kinder, Gentler Public Open Space



Volpe Center Evaluation Objectives

1. Should the ticket reservation system be continued?
2. How should the parking areas at Netul Landing and the site of the fort replica be operated?
3. Are adjustments to the intra-park shuttle service necessary?
4. What adjustments are needed to other transportation services, such as transit, that are provided to Netul?
5. How has the visitor experience, especially visitor spatial distribution and pace of the visit, been affected by the new systems?



Volpe Center Evaluation Recommendations

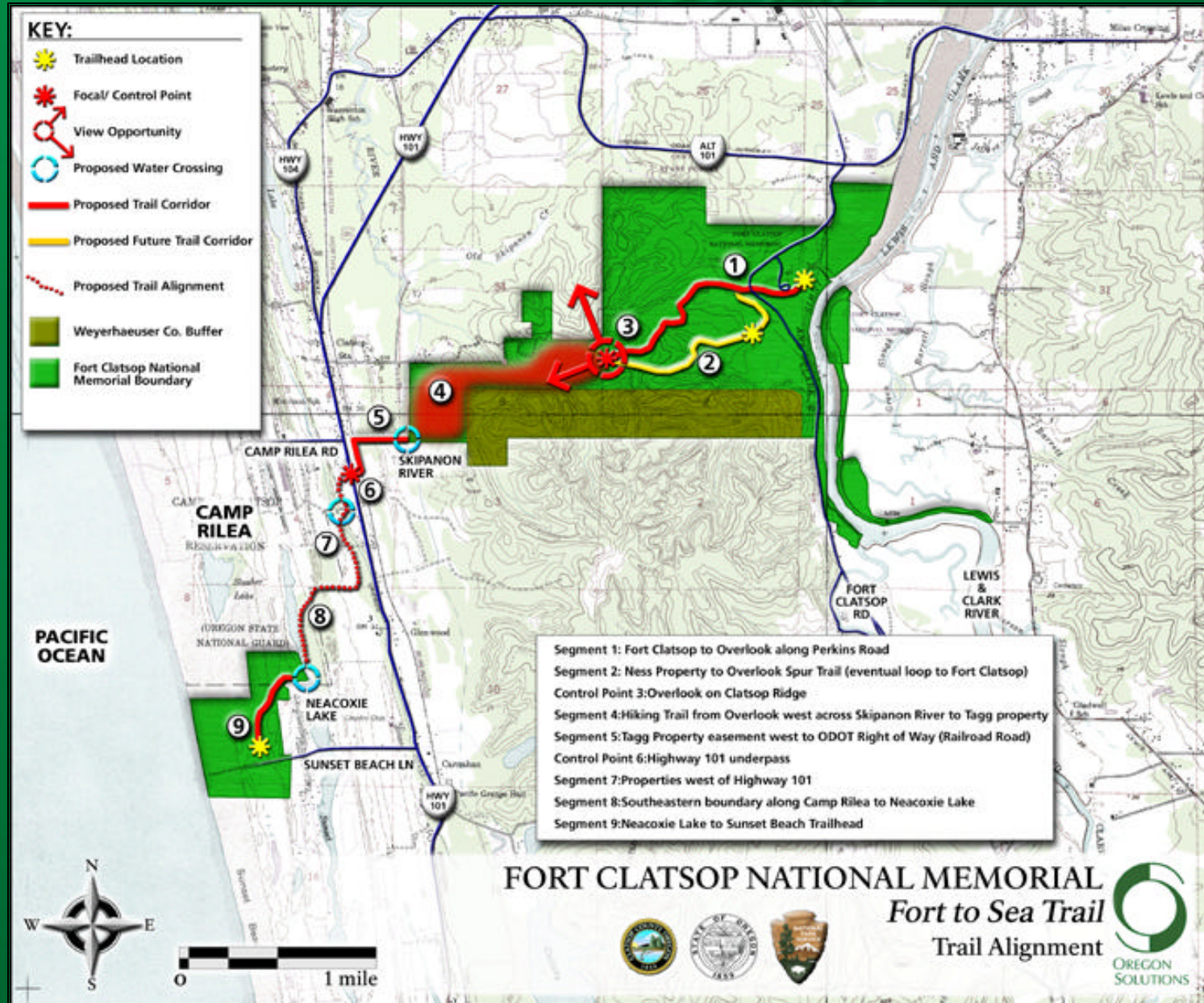
- Discontinue the ticket reservation system.
- Enhance regional transit service and marketing to encourage transit use.
- Improve parking access at Netul Landing for handicapped and elderly.
- Make targeted use of the parking lots near the visitor center for tour buses and possibly transit buses.
- Improve visitor information.
- Build a foot trail from Netul Landing to the fort.



Lewis & Clark National and State Historical Parks



Fort to Sea Trail



Things to keep in mind...

- Continue to make transit and other alternative transportation choices more seamless to visitors.
- Continue balancing transportation needs of residents and visitors alike.
- Promote car-free travel to the region (e.g. The Lewis and Clark Explorer Train from Portland, Cruise Ships, Bus Tours).
- Keep environmental and resource protection goals in mind when planning improvements to the system.



Acknowledgments



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Thank you!



Questions?

